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**From:** bounce-275598-5580627@listserv.state.ma.us on behalf of Skahen, Mary (EHS)  
<Mary.Skahen@state.ma.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 2:54 PM  
**To:** Hanchett, James (DPH)  
**Subject:** A Message from Secretary Bigby

Dear EOHHS Staff,

This afternoon, Governor Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Murray filed their FY12 budget recommendations. House 1 is a responsible and balanced plan to fund state programs and services next year, while recognizing reduction in available resources. Earlier this month in his State of the Commonwealth address, the Governor outlined his key priorities for his second term. He is committed to:

- Spurring job creation in the Commonwealth;
- Addressing urban and youth violence;
- Controlling health care costs through innovative solutions while preserving our first-in-the-nation coverage of residents; and
- Eliminating the achievement gap and preparing all Massachusetts students for the jobs of tomorrow.

The work you do each and every day impacts all of these important priorities.

Of course, we know all too well that the national economic crisis is not yet behind us, and this budget has required that we make some very difficult decisions. Unfortunately, we simply cannot maintain all programs and services at the same funding levels that residents and consumers have expected in the past. We will need to adjust to fewer resources – in large part because of the loss of federal stimulus aid, and to plan responsibly for the next generation.

Overall House 1 spending next year will be \$570 million (1.8 percent) less than projected spending for FY11. Very few items in this year's budget were increased from FY11 funding levels.

For EOHHS, House 1 appropriates \$14.95 billion to our agencies. Compared to FY11 projected spending, this represents an overall increase of 0.1%. The increase is largely within the MassHealth program, which has seen significant enrollment growth during the ongoing national recession. Compared to FY11 projected spending, non-MassHealth appropriations experience a decrease of \$91.1 million, or -1.9%.

We are fortunate that we are able to announce some positive news in the budget:

- Services and supports for our veterans are preserved;
- Funding has been maintained for Prescription Advantage, elder nutrition, and Councils on Aging;
- Residential, Turning 22, and day services for adults with developmental disabilities are maintained;
- We have prioritized maintaining the extraordinary gains we have made in health care reform and protected MassHealth member eligibility;
- We have maintained benefits for TAFDC and EAEDC recipients;
- There is a \$200,000 increase in youth-at-risk matching grants for violence prevention, and we have maintained funding for tobacco cessation, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention/treatment, domestic violence services, SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners), teenage pregnancy services, state hospitals and the state lab; and
- We have maintained services for children who are abused and neglected.

Of course, I recognize that there is difficult news in this budget. We are committed to working with stakeholders and consumers to mitigate the impact of the necessary reductions. I'm thankful for the work you do each day and for your commitment to the people we serve.

JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.

JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.  
Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
One Ashburton Place, Suite 1109  
Boston, MA 02108  
617 573-1800  
Assistant: Mary Skahen ([mary.skahen@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.skahen@state.ma.us))